

CREDITS AND  
INFORMATION

Fellow News is published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center to relay information about the fellowship program and provide a forum for information exchange among fellows, mentors, Sea Grant, and the Center.

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

OCTOBER

10–12:  
**American Shore and Beach Preservation Association 2005 Fall Conference**  
Location: San Francisco, California  
www.asbpa.org/2005fallconf.html

16–21:  
**ERF 2005: 18th Biennial Conference of the Estuarine Research Federation**  
Location: Norfolk, Virginia  
www.sgmeet.com/erf2005/

16–21:  
**24th International Submerged Lands Management Conference**  
Location: St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands  
www.islc2005.org

17–20:  
**Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments, and Water**  
Location: Amherst, Massachusetts  
www.UMassSoils.com

27–30:  
**Community Planning Collaborative: Democracy and Planning in Action**  
Location: Orlando, Florida  
http://cpc.placematters.info

8/31–9/2:  
**Sustainable Beaches Conference**  
Location: Saint Petersburg, Florida  
www.cleanbeaches.org/events/summit/2005/

NOVEMBER

7–10:  
**American Water Resources Association Annual Conference**  
Location: Seattle, Washington  
www.awra.org/meetings/Seattle2005/index.html

For more information on upcoming events, please visit [www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/conferences.html](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/conferences.html).

NOAA COASTAL SERVICES CENTER TRAINING

OCTOBER 2005

4–5: Visitor Use – North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve  
12–13: Project Design and Evaluation – Bar Harbor, Maine  
17–21: Introduction to ArcGIS I and Coastal Applications Using ArcGIS – NOAA Coastal Services Center  
24–26: Public Issues and Conflict Management – Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant

NOVEMBER 2005

8-9: Project Design and Evaluation – National Aquarium in Baltimore  
17-18: Visitor Use – Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve  
Nov 29–Dec 1: Public Issues and Conflict Management – Gulf Shores, Mississippi

DECEMBER 2005

5-9: Introduction to ArcGIS I and Coastal Applications Using ArcGIS – NOAA Coastal Services Center  
13-14: Project Design and Evaluation – Fort Fisher, North Carolina

\*Training classes are limited to project partners and NOAA line offices.

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FELLOW NEWS

News for and about the Coastal Management Fellows

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FOCUS ON FELLOWS:  
Laurel Hillmann



“Growing up overseas, in countries heavily dependent on their marine and coastal resources, I saw at a very early age not only the beauty of these exotic locations but the potential impact humans have in degrading them.”

Fellow Laurel Hillmann grew up vacationing in coastal destinations, such as the Dardanelles in Greece, Bali, Indonesia, and Kusadasi, Turkey. The daughter of international schoolteachers, she was able to experience a variety of

coastal areas while she was young. Some of Laurel’s earliest memories are of spending time on beaches—and her mom loves to tell her of how she “swam before she could walk.”

Laurel was born in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, and then lived in El Salvador, Greece, Indonesia, and Turkey. Her high school in Istanbul only went through 10th grade, so her time abroad ended and she was off to boarding school in Rhode Island. It was there that she took her first course in marine biology and was instantly hooked.

She decided to pursue an education in environmental sciences with a marine focus. She attempted to do that at the University of California at Davis but realized it was too land-locked and moved on to start her sophomore year at Evergreen State College, a school in Olympia, Washington, with its own beach on Puget Sound. The school was a great place to “learn by doing.” While at Evergreen State, Laurel worked as a marine outreach beach ranger, leading educational walks in Washington state tide pools.

Laurel graduated with a B.S. in marine studies and delved straight into graduate school at Oregon State University in the College of Oceanographic and Atmospheric Sciences. She completed several coastal and natural-resource-related internships, including a summer internship with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center doing invasive

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NOAA Coastal Services Center  
LINKING PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

FOCUS ON FELLOWS: (CONTINUED)



species research in San Francisco Bay and working as a research assistant in a sashimi grade research project (where she interviewed members of the fishing community).

She also worked as a teaching assistant in geological oceanography while in school and just before her fellowship, worked on a joint Environmental Protection Agency/ U.S. Geological Survey project developing a georeferenced database of west coast estuarine species, focusing on introduced species.

As Laurel was completing her M.S. in marine resource management in 2004, she heard about the fellowship through an e-mail sent out by her graduate school. A good friend from the school, Jennifer Dare, was already a fellow, so Laurel was familiar with the program. She applied and was selected to work as a fellow with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

The main focus of Laurel's fellowship is to identify ways to enhance the management of Oregon's rocky shore resources. To do this, Laurel is first conducting

an interagency assessment of the rocky shores management strategy (RSMS). Management objectives and prescriptions identified in the RSMS are being reviewed and updated for each of the 39 specially designated rocky shore sites in Oregon. To better evaluate the potential impact of visitors, a pilot visitor use survey is being conducted to assess the numbers of visitors and the types of use prevalent at a select number of high-use rocky shore sites along the Oregon coast.

Outstanding or unresolved management and implementation needs of the RSMS and rocky shores inventory will be assessed in light of current information and recommendations made to improve future management practices for Oregon's rocky shore treasures. Laurel is also providing rocky shore information for the Oregon Coastal Atlas ([www.coastalatlas.net](http://www.coastalatlas.net)).


During her fellowship, Laurel has also assisted in planning the annual training of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and Bureau of Land Management rocky shore interpreters. She has been able to help develop recommendations for updates to Oregon's ocean shore regulations, including suggesting new regulations on macroalgal management issues, such as harvesting limits and techniques. With interest increasing in both commercial and recreational harvest of algae along Oregon's rocky shore, the state must decide in a timely manner how to manage the resource. Laurel is excited about the possibility of being involved in helping write the actual rules!

The fellowship has given Laurel the chance to meet and network with

the coastal management community in Oregon. Not only has she gotten to work with people at the state and federal levels, Laurel has also been able to work with scientists and nonprofit organizations.

Attending training and conferences has also been a valuable aspect of the fellowship for Laurel. She says that "one of the best parts of the fellowship has been being able to travel and attend conferences like Coastal Zone 2005. I have also attended several trainings, including the Introduction to ArcGIS and Coastal Applications Using ArcGIS courses offered by the Coastal Services Center."

Laurel also attended trainings on the Endangered Species Act and how to prepare environmental impact statements. She has given several presentations for coastal nonprofits and the public, entitled "Oregon's Rocky Shore Treasures," which have helped to hone her presentation skills.

Following her fellowship, Laurel plans to continue a career in natural resource management, policy, and science. She is excited about spending at least a few more years in the Corvallis area, especially since her fiancée has recently been promoted to executive chef of a local restaurant there. Laurel says, "I hope to be able to continue to learn about the marine environment as I begin my career in the field of coastal management. After my first year as a NOAA coastal management fellow, I think I am on the right track." 

*For more information about Oregon's rocky shore resources, e-mail Laurel at [Laurel.Hillmann@state.or.us](mailto:Laurel.Hillmann@state.or.us).*

FELLOWSHIP  
SUCCESS STORY:

Local Ordinance  
References Guidebook  
Co-authored by Fellow

Ada Township in Michigan recently approved a riparian protection ordinance that will limit development within specified distances and establish requirements for maintenance of vegetation within a certain distance of these riparian features. The ordinance references "Filling the Gaps: Environmental Protection Options for Local Governments," a guidebook co-authored by Kate Ardizone, a 2001–2003 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Management Fellow with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Land and Water Management Division.

The document was created to equip local officials with important information to consider when making local land use plans, adopting new environmentally focused regulations, or reviewing proposed development. Supporting materials from the Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials program were keys to the creation of the document.

To read the guidebook, go to [www.michigan.gov/deq/](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/) and search for "Filling the Gaps."

To view the ordinance, see: <http://ada.mi.us./index.cfm?lp=propamend/notice.cfm>.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE:

Graduating Class of Fellows

**Ed Cervone** has taken a position with the Maine Center for Economic Policy in Augusta, Maine.

**Jennifer Dare** will be moving to Charleston, South Carolina, to work as the remote sensing outreach coordinator at the NOAA Coastal Services Center.

**Sophie DeBeukelaer** has accepted a position as a geographic information system (GIS) analyst with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

**Dave Easter** will be moving to Juneau, Alaska, to work as a coastal resource specialist with the Alaska Coastal Management Program.

**Becky Walker** has accepted a position as the coastal training program coordinator for the Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto River Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve in South Carolina.

*Best of luck to all of you!*

FOCUS ON THE FELLOWSHIP:

Call for State Proposals

All states and Caribbean jurisdictions with federally approved coastal zone management programs, as well as states developing such programs for approval, are eligible to submit one project proposal to compete for selection as a fellowship host state.

Multiple agencies or organizations that participate in a partnered implementation of a state's coastal management program are also eligible. States that currently host a first-year fellow are not eligible to apply for a second fellow. This year, four project proposals will be selected.

A six-to-eight-page proposal in 12-point font must include the following:

- ♦ Background and introduction
- ♦ Goals and objectives
- ♦ Milestones and outcomes
- ♦ Project description
- ♦ Fellow mentoring
- ♦ Project partners
- ♦ Cost-share description

Proposals are due to the NOAA Coastal Services Center by close of business on Friday, October 14, 2005. One signed and four copies of the proposal must be received by mail (e-mail or fax will not be accepted). Send your proposal to

Coastal Management Fellowship Program  
NOAA Coastal Services Center  
2234 South Hobson Avenue  
Charleston, South Carolina 29405

To view examples of previously selected state proposals, visit the fellowship Web site at [www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows/stateproject.html](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows/stateproject.html).